trade are reviewed from time to time by the Inter Governmental Committee on Trade headed by the two Commerce Secretaries. In this connection, the question of providing greater access into the Indian market for goods manufactured in Nepal has been under discussion.

(c) No new trade agreement has been signed with Nepal recently.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Tax Evasion

2004. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases in which the evasion of income tax, central excise and customs have come to light in the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether any equiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Data in this regard are not maintained State/Union Territory-wise.

(b) and (c). Enquiries/investigations are conducted whenever any specific information of tax evasion is recieved.

[Tranlation]

Plan to Increase Exports

2005. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to chalk-out any target based programme to increase exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Export performance is dependent on a number of factors including the demand for the products, the economic conditions in the countries importing such products, competition from other countries exporting such products, export promotion efforts, etc. However, based on the past performance, the Commerce Ministry is projecting to sustain a 20% export growth in dollar terms for the Year 1996-97.

Export promotion is a continuous activity and steps are taken from time to time boost exports in consultation with trade and industry and export promotional organisations. Measures taken to step up exports include holding of trade fairs and exhibitions, simplification of import and export-policy procedures, improving efficiency and competitiveness, focussing on quality and technology upgradation and efforts to actively involve the State Governments in export promotion.

[English]

Increase in Capacity of Ports in Orissa

2006. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has signed any agreement with the Government of Orissa to increase handling capacity of ports in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). MMTC Limited has signed an MOU with the Government of Orissa on 15th February,1996 for commissioning a detailed feasibility study for integrated development of Gopalpur Port from fair weather to all weather deep water direct berthing port.

[Translation]

Import of Textiles

2008. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of textiles imported during the year 1995-96; and

(d) the foreign exchange spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA). (a) and (b) Government do not propose to import textiles.

(c) and (d). The foreign exchange equivalent of Rs.3258.48 corores (approximately) were spent on the import to textiles during 1995-96.